

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND AND ITS MEDICAL SCHOOL 1784-1966. By J. D. H. Widdess, M.A., LittD.(Dubl.), L.R.C.P. and S.I., M.C.Path. (Pp. 152 ; plates XXI. 35s). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1967.

PROFESSOR WIDDESS in the small compass of 130 pages has covered the Surgery of Dublin and of Ireland in general, dealing particularly with that exciting period of the last 200 years. He deals with the schools of surgery of Dublin which, like their famous counterparts in London, The Hunterian and other schools, were the forenames of their more organised successor The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Dublin at that time was the second capital in the British Empire, and with its famous hospitals and more famous teachers, was the mecca for all enterprising doctors of that period. This book covers the details of these 200 years in a clear, readable and attractive style. It is a book which should be in every surgeon's hands and particularly with those who are interested in the history of progress of surgery during this time. Well printed, compact and well illustrated, the second edition of this book brings us right up to date with modern times.

As Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons Professor Widdess has had all the material available ; his book seems to have covered every facet in the progress of that institution. I cannot recommend too highly this excellent book which seems in a small space to have covered what most authors would have put in to a volume three times that size. I.F.

HISTORY OF MEDICINE: 1. Primitive and Archaic Medicine. By Henry E. Sigerist. (Pp. XXI+564 ; figs. 104. 24s). New York and London: Oxford University Press (Galaxy Books), 1967.

HENRY SIGERIST was a product of the finest German scholarship and later and for fifteen years professor of the history of medicine at Johns Hopkins University. In 1947 he retired to the lake hamlet of Pura on Lake Lugano to write his long projected history of medicine. This was to place medicine in the broad setting of general history and give some indication of the vast role played by the medical sciences among the forces which have determined the progress of mankind. This volume, first published in 1951, was the only one of the eight projected to be published before he died in 1957. It is a well established classic. It deals only with medicine in prehistoric times, in Ancient Egypt, and in the Mesopotamian civilization. It well deserves a wider audience and anyone interested in the dawn of medicine, folklore and primitive thought should read it.

This edition is a paper back one and unfortunately is bound in single sheets. This will make for premature disintegration and makes the book difficult to open fully. Again, with the narrow margin next to the spine the format is not a pleasant one. Such an important and serious study deserves a better production as a reprint and the book is expensive for this format. J.E.M.

THE PSYCHOANALYTIC REVOLUTION: Sigmund Freud's Life and Achievement by Marthe Robert, translated by Kenneth Morgan. (Pp. 396. 50s). London: George Allen & Unwin, 1966.

[In the review of this book in the last issue (vol. xxxvi, page 72) some words were omitted from the first paragraph. This paragraph is now given as in the reviewer's manuscript.]

This is a very readable translation from the French of the birth and development of psychoanalysis. Naturally Freud is at its centre, but other key figures, such as Jung, Rank, Ferenczi, Adler and Putnam, enter and leave the narrative with only a few staunch adherents such as Pfister and Jones remaining loyal to the basic tenets postulated by their teacher.